

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Mennie Machine Company

Illinois Manufacturing Extension Center

IMEC Support Drives Improvement at Mennie Machine Company

Client Profile:

Mennie Machine Company is a manufacturer of drive-line suspension components, wheel hubs, transmission shafts, bell housings, and pump bodies for customers in automotive, construction equipment, and hydraulics sectors. The company employs 225 people at its facility in Mark, Illinois.

Situation:

To win business and meet profit targets, Mennie Machine knew it had to leverage capabilities that distinguish it from thousands of other suppliers in that industry. Mennie Machine's management sought advice from the Illinois Manufacturing Extension Center (IMEC), a NIST MEP network affiliate, to validate new processes, analyze cost allocation and pricing strategies, and implement a quality management system.

Solution:

Recognizing that the TS-16949 quality standard would differentiate them as a preferred supplier, IMEC worked with Mennie Machine to transition to the quality standard by documenting internal processes, training personnel to conduct internal audits, and suggesting corrective actions. With support from IMEC, the company has built on three competitive advantages: flexibility, quality, and speed. In addition to producing up to 500 part numbers in volumes ranging from 10 to 800,000 units per year, Mennie Machine also integrates its own robotics, tooling, fixturing and manufacturing capabilities to quickly create cellular lines that can support special product requirements. The company's engineers also collaborate with buyers early in product launch to refine drawings and minimize early defect rates.

Results:

- * Anticipated sales increase of \$500,000.
- * Reduced costs by \$750,000.
- * Achieved Advanced Product Quality Planning and Production Part Approval Process compliance.

Testimonial:

"Illinois Manufacturing Extension Center provides us with another viewpoint without causing disruptions to the plant. Their experience and technical knowledge are excellent."

Amy Cemei, Management Representative